

National Water Development Agency (NWDA), a Government of India Society under the Ministry of Water Resources has been entrusted with the studies of interlinking of rivers (ILR) in the country under National Perspective Plan (NPP). The grants-in-aid received by NWDA for the studies on ILR during last two years i.e. 2004-05 and 2005-06 is Rs. 21 crore and Rs. 17 crore respectively.

The provision made for grant-in-aid to NWDA for the Financial Year 2006-07 is Rs. 41 crore and the amount spent by NWDA this year upto 31st October, 2006 is Rs. 10.45 crore.

(d) The representatives from State Governments including Chhattisgarh participate in the meetings organized by NWDA for ILR viz Annual General Meeting, Governing Body, Technical Advisory Committee, Consensus Group etc.

Restoration of neglected water bodies

3026. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the desired storage capacity requirement of the country;
- (b) what is the present total storage capacity of all major big dams in the country;
- (c) what is the present total storage capacity of small water structures/ ponds/reservoirs/uncuts in the country;
- (d) whether restoration of old, disused, neglected water bodies/reservoirs, can sufficiently add to the storage capacity as Government have announced a grandiose scheme of restoration of 1 lakh such structures; and
- (e) if so, what are its plan and roadmap in the context?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Storage capacity of 213 billion cubic metre (BCM) has been created so far. This includes the storage created through major and medium projects as well as minor irrigation schemes. Storage capacity created through small tanks etc., is about 6 BCM. As per present assessment, the total estimated storage capacity of various projects under construction is about 76 BCM.

Further, the State Governments have identified various other schemes for investigation and planning and the estimated storage for such schemes is about 108 BCM. The National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development in its report has considered these live storages as bare minimum needed to balance seasonal flow in an average year. The report has further observed that for making possible the carry over from years of above normal rainfall to dry years, development of more storage is needed.

(d) The storage capacity created through restoration of old, disused, neglected water bodies is relatively very less. However, such schemes help in reducing the gap between the irrigation potential created and potential utilized and provide immediate benefit.

(e) The Government of India has sanctioned a pilot scheme for "National Project for Repair, Renovation & Restoration of Water Bodies directly linked to Agriculture" in January, 2005 with an estimated cost of Rs. 300 crore to be shared by Centre and State in the ratio of 3:1. The water bodies having cultivated command area of more than 40 hectares and upto 2000 hectares are included under the pilot scheme. The scheme has been approved in 24 districts of 14 States at an estimated cost of Rs. 296.87 crores. These projects cover 1076 water bodies with total original cultivable command area of 2.99 lakh ha. The physical work for restoration has been completed for 232 water bodies so far and the restoration work is in progress in the remaining 844 water bodies. Some State Governments have also initiated actions for implementation of schemes for restoration of water bodies with external assistance.

Opening of Regional Office at Raipur

†3027. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Chhattisgarh has requested to open a Regional Office of the Department of Water Resources in Raipur; and

(b) if so, what is the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.